



TONI PRECKWINKLE
President

**Board of
Commissioners**

Frank J. Aguilar
Alma E. Anaya
Scott R. Britton
John P. Daley
Dennis Deer
Bridget Degnen
Bridget Gainer
Monica Gordon
Bill Lowry
Donna Miller
Stanley Moore
Josina Morita
Kevin B. Morrison
Sean M. Morrison
Anthony J. Quezada
Tara S. Stamps
Maggie Trevor

**General
Superintendent**

Arnold L. Randall

To: The Honorable President Toni Preckwinkle and the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County

From: Damon Howell, Chief Financial Officer

cc: Arnold Randall, General Superintendent

Date: December 12, 2023

Re: **American Rescue Plan Act Funding Annual Report**

Pursuant to Board Resolution No. 22-0289 approved on July 26, 2022, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (“the Forest Preserves”) is presenting an annual report of expenditures of American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds received from Cook County. The report provides an overview of all funds received through ARPA and includes a summary of each project where the Forest Preserves has received funds directly from Cook County, including total expenditures and activities.

All ARPA funds are obligated to be spent by December 31, 2024, with all work completed by November 30, 2026, and no match required by the Forest Preserves.

In total the Forest Preserves has been awarded \$42,375,000 in ARPA funds, of which \$25,875,000 will be directly managed the Forest Preserves and of which \$4,563,269 has been spent to date. \$1,500,000 will be spent on behalf of the Forest Preserves by Cook County, and \$15,000,000 will be passed to the Chicago Botanic Garden (\$5,000,000) and the Chicago Zoological Society (\$10,000,000).

Attachments: American Rescue Plan Funding Annual Report December 2023

Reference: Board Resolution No. 22-0289, Board Resolution No. 23-0308 and Intergovernmental Agreement No. 23-2768

American Rescue Plan Act Funding Annual Report

December 2023

Forest Preserves of Cook County

The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has been awarded a total of \$42,375,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds in support of its mission to protect the public lands in its care, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, advance sustainability and resilience initiatives, and ensure that all Cook County residents have access to healthy nature. The awarded ARPA funds include \$15,000,000 that will pass through the Forest Preserves to the Chicago Zoological Society (\$10,000,000) and to the Chicago Botanic Garden (\$5,000,000) to support capital improvements at each of these important institutions.

\$25,875,000 funds will go directly to the Forest Preserves and \$1,500,000 will be spent by Cook County on behalf of the Forest Preserves for environmental remediation through structural demolition to increase access to healthy outdoor recreation and enhance energy savings. In addition, the County will directly support the installation of up to five electric vehicle charging fueling stations within the Forest Preserves. All ARPA funds must be obligated by December 2024 and all work must be completed by November 2026. The Forest Preserves is working hard to meet this timeline.

The following pages include programmatic and financial progress reports for each of the following ARPA funded projects:

- Conservation Corps
- Southeast Cook County Land Acquisitions
- Riparian Restoration
- Personnel
- Capital Improvements
- Demolition and remediation to create additional green space
- Electric Vehicle Fueling Stations

Conservation Corps - \$3,875,000

Summary: Approved by the Board on July 26, 2022, these funds, supported and administered by Cook County Department of Economic Development, are helping the Forest Preserves support and expand its long-running and award-winning Conservation Corps – a program established in 2005 to provide meaningful hands-on conservation work opportunities to youth and adults. Most Conservation Corps participants are people of color who reside in

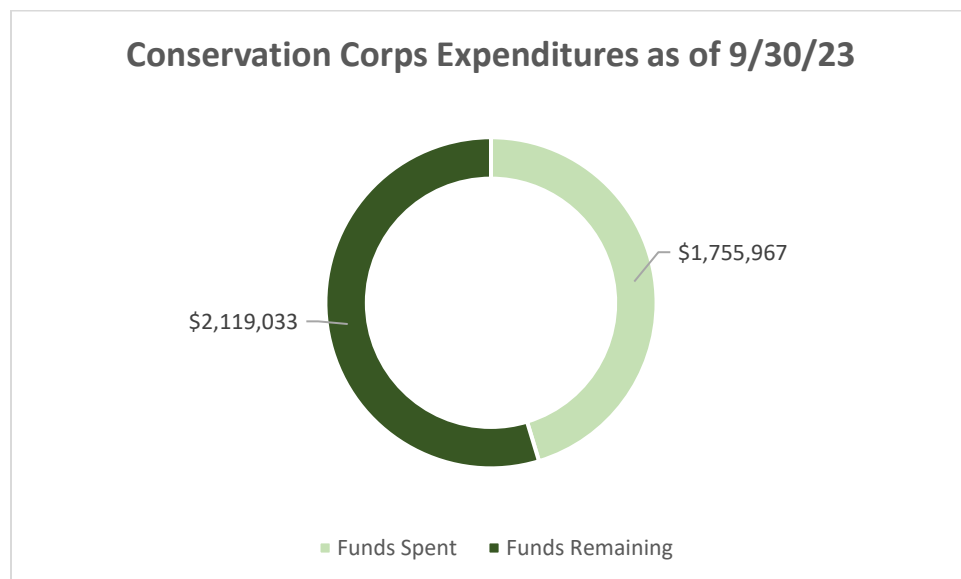
communities that have suffered disproportionately from decades of disinvestment and chronic high unemployment that was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The awarded ARPA funds allowed the Conservation Corps to expand service hours for the Greencorps Chicago program by over 25% and helped to maintain the Forest Preserve Experience program at its current number of participants (100 youth) at a time when program costs rose significantly due to higher inflation, labor cost increases, and decreased funding from foundation philanthropy due to COVID-19.

The programs will:

1. Engage 540 youth and adults who will contribute a minimum of 80,000 service hours to help maintain healthy nature and help to improve 1,000 acres of public open land.
2. Ensure that 75% of program beneficiaries will reside within qualified census tracts and / or live below the federal poverty line.
3. Include Conservation Corps partners: Greencorps Chicago, Friends of the Forest Preserves, the Housing Authority of Cook County, and Student Conservation Association.

To date: As of September 30, 2023, \$1,755,967 has been spent with \$891,586 encumbered for 2023 programming and \$1,500,000 allocated for 2024 programs. 174 participants have completed a Conservation Corps program including the Forest Preserve Experience, Greencorps Chicago, and Gap Year Internship.

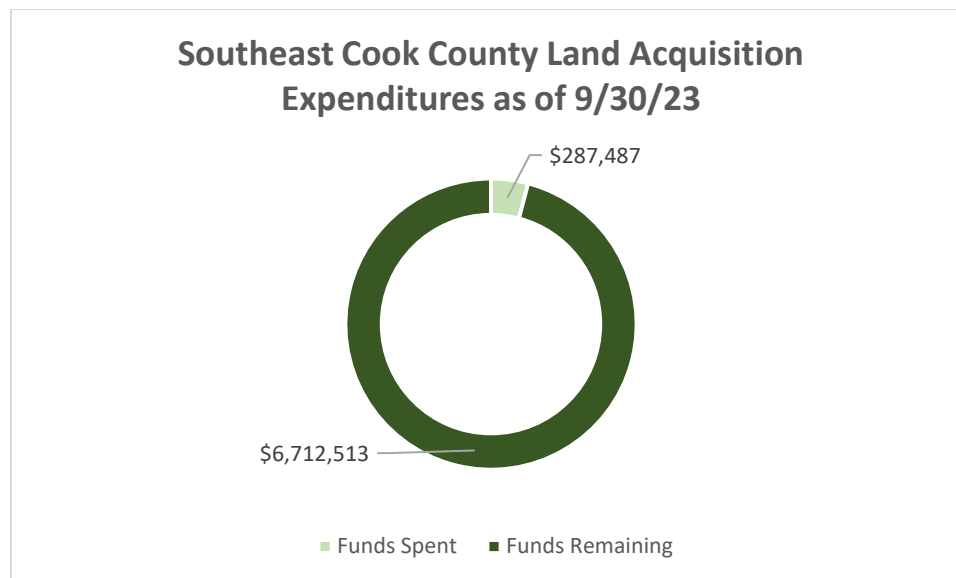


Southeast Cook County Land Acquisitions - \$7,000,000

Summary: Approved by the Board on July 26, 2022, this project, supported by Cook County's Department of Environment and Sustainability, is helping the Forest Preserves acquire up to 500 acres from willing sellers in Southeast Cook County to create a robust forest preserve system. Protecting these lands will help to reduce flooding in the area, build community resilience, and offer residents outdoor recreation activities that promote improved public health. This project will:

1. Create a vibrant forest preserve system that protects the region's natural and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreation activities that promote improved public health, aid in the generation of economic benefits and boost community and social resilience.
2. Utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index to identify areas of high need and vulnerability, and focus investments, environmental improvements, economic progress, and social justice to meet those needs.
3. Support a nature-based solution that will contribute towards the reduction of flooding and build greater resilience in the area to storm events and potential impacts from climate change.

Progress to date: As of September 30, 2023, \$287,487 has been spent on acquisitions and due diligence for future acquisitions, including valuation work. The Forest Preserves anticipates spending the remainder of the funds in 2024 by completing several land acquisitions, site preparations and restoration activities.

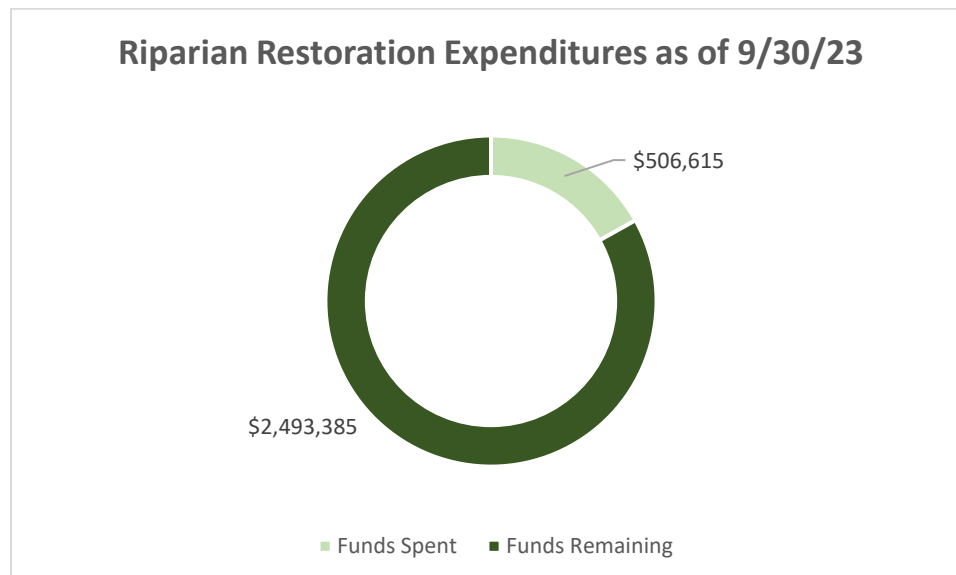


Riparian Restoration - \$3,000,000

Summary: Approved by the Board on July 26, 2022, this project, supported by Cook County's Department of Environment and Sustainability, is helping the Forest Preserves reduce flooding and improve air and water quality by restoring forest preserves along Thorn Creek, which runs from Chicago Heights to South Holland in southeast Cook County and Tinley Creek, which runs from Orland Park to Crestwood in southwest Cook County. This project represents a significant investment in forest preserves within one mile of 4,054 households, 70% of which have an income below the median income for Cook County (\$64,660 in 2019 dollars). The Riparian Restoration project has three main components:

1. On-the-ground ecological restoration of 400 acres of floodplain and associated uplands habitats;
2. The development of hydrologic restoration plans that identify repairs and modifications needed to restore impaired hydrology, reduce soil erosion, and decrease siltation within the project area; and
3. Implementation of at least two high-impact best management practices identified in the hydrologic restoration plans.

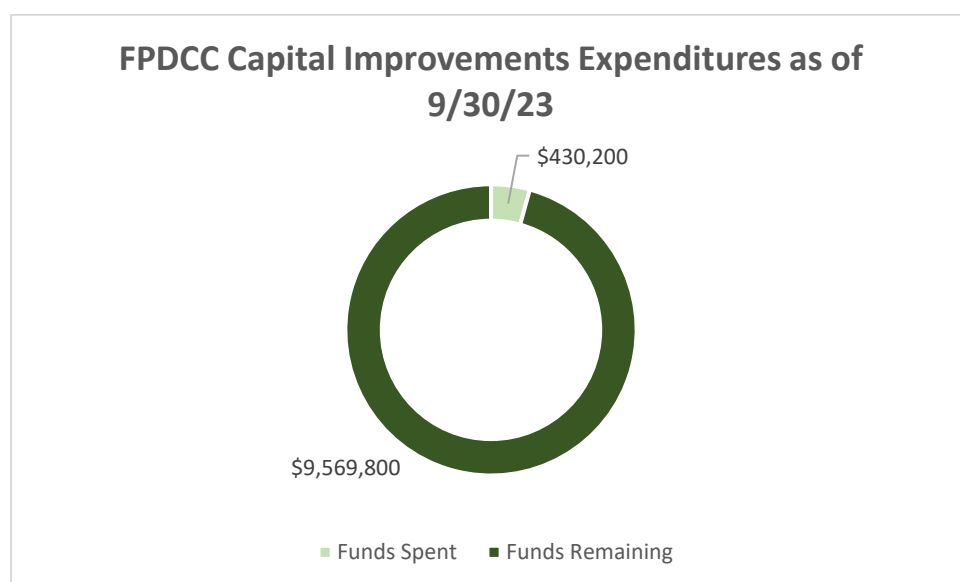
Progress to date: Ecological restoration activities have been conducted on 281 acres and the hydrologic restoration reports for Thorn and Tinley Creeks have been completed. Forest Preserves' staff are currently reviewing and selecting the hydrologic repairs that will be implemented in 2024 and 2025. As of September 30, 2023, \$506,615 has been spent with \$1,244,521 encumbered for 2023 and \$1,248,863 for hydrologic repairs to be bid out in 2024.



FPDCC Capital Improvements - \$10,000,000

Summary: Approved by the Board in April 2023, the Cook County Bureau of Finance is supporting the Forest Preserves' implementation of capital improvements that will enhance visitors' experience. The Forest Preserves will conduct general maintenance and upgrades to public facilities (including HVAC replacements), build new restrooms and rehabilitate up to 40 existing restrooms throughout the Forest Preserves.

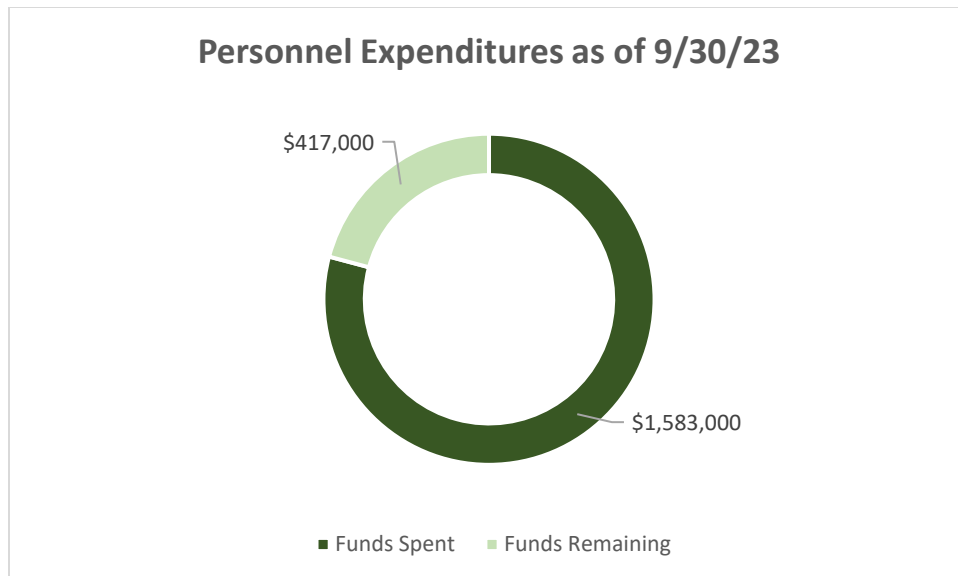
Progress to date: As of September 30, 2023, the Forest Preserves has spent \$430,200 on high efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning ("HVAC") equipment for its General Headquarters Building; \$2,000,000 are planned to remove gas-fired boilers and to install all-electric HVAC in its General Headquarters building; and \$2,000,000 to be spent at its to be spent on windows at its General Headquarters building, to build a new restroom building at Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve and to renovate up to 40 existing restroom buildings.



Personnel - \$2,000,000

Summary: Approved by the Board on July 26, 2022, Cook County Bureau of Finance awarded the Forest Preserves \$2,000,000 to support one-time payments for Forest Preserves employees for pandemic related impacts, similar to one-time payments made by the County for its employees in 2021.

To date: As of September 30, 2023, \$1,583,000 had been paid and \$252,000 is anticipated as a final payment to police officers and sergeants. The Forest Preserves anticipates completing this project by November 2024.



Demolition and remediation to create additional green space - \$1,500,000

Summary: Approved by the Board in May 2023, the project, performed by the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, support structure demolition, environmental assessment, and environmental remediation within the Forest Preserves to increase access to healthy outdoor recreation and nature and enhance energy savings. The Department of Environment and Sustainability will conduct up to \$1.5 million in Brownfield Program demolition, environmental assessment, and environmental remediation services for the Forest Preserves for an estimated 21 structures. Removal of these structures will allow the Forest Preserves to increase access to outdoor recreation activities and to transform the sites into natural areas that can better contribute flood and stormwater retention and other ecosystem services.

Progress to date: One site, 135th Street Tampier Greenway in Orland Park, Illinois which includes 11 Structures has been assigned to Ashlaur Construction Company, a Job Order Contractor ("JOC"), and a price of \$662,829.47 has been accepted and contract negotiations are ongoing. Demolition of structures is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2024. A second site, Hickory Lane, Wolf Road Prairie buffer, in Westchester, Illinois includes nine structures that have also been assigned to the same JOC, Ashlaur Construction Company. An on-site Joint Scope Meeting with the contractor and cost proposal are anticipated in December, with a 2024 second quarter start anticipated.

Electric Vehicle Fueling Stations

Summary: Approved by the Board on July 26, 2022, the project, performed by the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, supports the installation of five electric fueling stations that will contribute to the development of a robust public network of clean energy charging stations and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To address large gaps in EV charging station service within Cook County, the following five sites were selected: Busse Lake Boating Center (Elk Grove Village), Volunteer Resource Center (Chicago), General Headquarters (River Forest), Dan Ryan Visitor Center (Chicago) and Swallow Cliff Stairs (Palos Park).

Progress to date: The Forest Preserves and Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability are in the final stages of finalizing the IGA with site selection and installation anticipated to begin in 2024.



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	22-0289	Version:	1	Name:	
Type:	Resolution	Status:		Approved	
File created:	5/26/2022	In control:		FPD Board of Commissioners	
On agenda:	7/26/2022	Final action:		7/26/2022	
Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION				

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SUB-AWARDS

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00 of ARPA funding to Cook County to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County may subaward to subrecipients portions of the County's ARPA funding for purposes approved by the County Board (see County Board Item Nos. 22-0637, 22-0691, 22-1626, and 22-2807); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") has requested subaward funds in the following amounts for the following Forest Preserves programs:

1. Conservation Corps - Not to Exceed \$3,875,000.00. The Forest Preserves will continue to engage youth and adults from Cook County in meaningful hands-on job training. Participants receive job training, attend networking events, and earn valuable certifications while improving the ecological health of the Forest Preserves. In subsequent years, the program may feature an expanded career pathways focus and new partners.
2. Riparian Restoration -Not to Exceed \$3,000,000.00. These funds will allow Forest Preserves to restore 400 acres of floodplain and associated uplands habitats along Tinley and Thorn Creeks allowing for improved natural infiltration of rainwater, reducing flooding, and improving water quality. Funds will support the development of hydrologic restoration plans. A portion of the project area will involve riparian restoration in the Sauk Lake preserve system, which includes the communities of Park Forest, Chicago Heights, South Chicago Heights, and Steger.
3. Personnel Costs -Not to Exceed \$2,000,000.00. These funds are for one-time payments for Forest Preserves employees for pandemic related impacts, similar to one-time payments made by the County for its employees in 2021.
4. Implementation of the Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan -Not to Exceed \$7,000,000.00. These funds will help us acquire an estimated 350 acres in southeast Cook County. This land preservation project is a nature-based solution that will contribute towards the reduction of flooding and build greater resilience in the area to storm events and potential impacts from climate change and will create a vibrant forest preserve system that promotes improved public health, aids in the generation of economic benefits and boosts community and social resilience. The ARPA funds will build on awards from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation that are helping to secure several other parcels in the area.
5. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations. Cook County will purchase and install up to five (5)

EV Charging Stations on Forest Preserves property. Each charging station is valued at approximately \$35,000.00. Once installed, the charging stations will be owned and operated by the Forest Preserves. These charging stations will be used in Forest Preserves operations and will be available as an amenity to Forest Preserves patrons. Any proposed fees for the use of the charging stations will be brought to the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners for approval in advance. The goal is to help increase access to electric vehicle charging stations throughout Cook County, focusing on where there are currently large gaps in service areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Forest Preserves, as a grant subrecipient, to enter into one or more Intergovernmental Agreement(s) or Subrecipient Agreement(s) with Cook County for funding for the projects described above, provided such agreements are limited to terms of no more than five (5) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County shall present to the Board of Commissioners an annual report of expenditures from County ARPA funds received.

Sponsors: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President)

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
7/26/2022	1	FPD Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SUB-AWARDS

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00 of ARPA funding to Cook County to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County may subaward to subrecipients portions of the County’s ARPA funding for purposes approved by the County Board (see County Board Item Nos. 22-0637, 22-0691, 22-1626, and 22-2807); and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has requested subaward funds in the following amounts for the following Forest Preserves programs:

- 1. Conservation Corps - Not to Exceed \$3,875,000.00.** The Forest Preserves will continue to engage youth and adults from Cook County in meaningful hands-on job training. Participants receive job training, attend networking events, and earn valuable certifications while improving the ecological health of the Forest Preserves. In subsequent years, the program may feature an expanded career pathways focus and new partners.
- 2. Riparian Restoration -Not to Exceed \$3,000,000.00.** These funds will allow Forest Preserves to restore 400 acres of floodplain and associated uplands habitats along Tinley and Thorn Creeks allowing for improved natural infiltration of rainwater, reducing flooding, and improving water quality. Funds will support the development of hydrologic restoration plans. A portion of the project area will involve riparian restoration in the Sauk Lake preserve system, which includes the communities of Park Forest, Chicago Heights, South Chicago Heights, and Steger.

3. **Personnel Costs -Not to Exceed \$2,000,000.00.** These funds are for one-time payments for Forest Preserves employees for pandemic related impacts, similar to one-time payments made by the County for its employees in 2021.
4. **Implementation of the Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan -Not to Exceed \$7,000,000.00** . These funds will help us acquire an estimated 350 acres in southeast Cook County. This land preservation project is a nature-based solution that will contribute towards the reduction of flooding and build greater resilience in the area to storm events and potential impacts from climate change and will create a vibrant forest preserve system that promotes improved public health, aids in the generation of economic benefits and boosts community and social resilience. The ARPA funds will build on awards from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation that are helping to secure several other parcels in the area.
5. **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations.** Cook County will purchase and install up to five (5) EV Charging Stations on Forest Preserves property. Each charging station is valued at approximately \$35,000.00. Once installed, the charging stations will be owned and operated by the Forest Preserves. These charging stations will be used in Forest Preserves operations and will be available as an amenity to Forest Preserves patrons. Any proposed fees for the use of the charging stations will be brought to the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners for approval in advance. The goal is to help increase access to electric vehicle charging stations throughout Cook County, focusing on where there are currently large gaps in service areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Forest Preserves, as a grant subrecipient, to enter into one or more Intergovernmental Agreement(s) or Subrecipient Agreement(s) with Cook County for funding for the projects described above, provided such agreements are limited to terms of no more than five (5) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County shall present to the Board of Commissioners an annual report of expenditures from County ARPA funds received.



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	23-0308	Version:	2	Name:	
Type:	Resolution	Status:		Approved	
File created:	4/6/2023	In control:		FPD Board of Commissioners	
On agenda:	4/25/2023	Final action:		4/25/2023	
Title:	PROPOSED RESOLUTION				

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFICIARY GRANT FROM COOK COUNTY TO THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN, AND BROOKFIELD ZOO TO BE PAID FROM ARPA REVENUE LOSS ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385 of ARPA funding to Cook County ("County") to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2021, the County's American Rescue Plan Act Framework (the "ARPA Framework") was presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners via Resolution 21-3654 accepted the ARPA federal award to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19 in the amount of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00; and

WHEREAS, the County to date has allocated up to \$300,000,000 from its ARPA federal award for revenue loss; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule powers and in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury ARPA guidance, the County desires to allocate \$25M of its ARPA revenue loss allocation to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County ("FPDCC"), the Chicago Horticultural Society ("Garden"), and the Chicago Zoological Society ("Zoo") to fund various capital projects in furtherance of Cook County's Policy Roadmap Goals and the County's commitment to improved health and wellness, government services, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-0637 provided that any grants issued regarding ARPA programs in an amount over \$1M shall require the approval of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the County is expected to seek approval to issue the above-referenced grants from the Cook County Board of Commissioners on April 27, 2023 (Cook County Board Item No. 23-2282); and

WHEREAS, the County desires to award \$10M to the FPDCC, \$10M to the Zoo, and \$5M to the Garden in the form of a Beneficiary Grant Agreement for capital projects for each entity; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the capital projects will vary based on the site, but the capital projects will improve the experience and public health of surrounding community members and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the FPDCC will institute general maintenance and upgrades to public facilities (including HVAC replacements), and build new comfort stations and rehabilitate up to 40 existing comfort stations throughout the forest preserve system; the Garden will facilitate roof replacement(s) at the

Garden; and the Zoo will institute HVAC upgrades, roof repairs, and animal exhibit upgrades at the Zoo; and/or, in the case of each of the FPDCC, Garden and Zoo, such other projects as approved by the County through the County's Bureau of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the Garden and the Zoo are not governmental entities; the property and buildings that host their programming are assets of the FPDCC, and due to the nature of these sites offering green space to the public as well as the community programming offered by these entities (governmental or otherwise), the rehabilitation of these sites falls within the scope of traditional government services and the County's home rule powers; and

WHEREAS, the capital projects identified will be completed by year end 2026 and the completion of such projects will be monitored by the County through the Bureau of Finance and the FPDCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that President, Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the FPDCC to accept as a sub-recipient the proposed \$10M grant designated for the FPDCC and to enter the three (3) Beneficiary Agreements described below, subject to approval of the same by the Cook County Board of Commissioners:

1. Enter into a Beneficiary Agreement with the Zoo and the County under which the County will grant \$10M to the Zoo to fund HVAC, roof, and animal exhibit upgrades, and/or such other project(s) at the Zoo as approved by the County through the Bureau of Finance and FPDCC. The FPDCC will monitor the use of the grant award by the Zoo and report on the completion of the identified capital projects in accordance with the Beneficiary Agreement.

2. Enter into a Beneficiary Agreement with the Garden and the County under which the County will grant \$5M to the Garden to facilitate roof replacement(s), and/or such other project(s) at the Garden as approved by the County through the Bureau of Finance and FPDCC. The FPDCC will monitor the use of the grant award by the Garden and report on the completion of the identified capital projects in accordance with the Beneficiary Agreement.

3. Enter into a Beneficiary Agreement with the County under which the County will grant \$10M to FPDCC to institute general maintenance and upgrades to public facilities (including HVAC replacements), build new comfort stations and rehabilitate up to 40 existing comfort stations, and/or such other project(s) as approved by the County through the Bureau of Finance. The Bureau of Finance will monitor the use of the grant award by the FPDCC and report on the completion of the identified capital projects in accordance with the Beneficiary Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the capital projects included in the above-referenced Beneficiary Agreements shall be completed by year-end 2026.

Sponsors: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President)

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Cook County ARPA, 2. CC 22-0637, 3. CC 21-3654, 4. Garden, 5. Zoo

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/25/2023	2	FPD Board of Commissioners	suspend the rules	Pass
4/25/2023	2	FPD Board of Commissioners	approve as amended	Pass

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFICIARY GRANT FROM COOK COUNTY TO THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN, AND BROOKFIELD ZOO TO BE PAID FROM ARPA REVENUE LOSS ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385 of ARPA funding to Cook County (“County”) to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2021, the County’s American Rescue Plan Act Framework (the “ARPA Framework”) was presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners via Resolution 21-3654 accepted the ARPA federal award to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19 in the amount of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00; and

WHEREAS, the County to date has allocated up to \$300,000,000 from its ARPA federal award for revenue loss; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule powers and in accordance with U.S. Department of Treasury ARPA guidance, the County desires to allocate \$25M of its ARPA revenue loss allocation to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (“FPDCC”), the Chicago Horticultural Society (“Garden”), and the Chicago Zoological Society (“Zoo”) to fund various capital projects in furtherance of Cook County’s Policy Roadmap Goals and the County’s commitment to improved health and wellness, government services, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-0637 provided that any grants issued regarding ARPA programs in an amount over \$1M shall require the approval of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the County is expected to seek approval to issue the above-referenced grants from the Cook County Board of Commissioners on April 27, 2023 (Cook County Board Item No. 23-2282); and

WHEREAS, the County desires to award \$10M to the FPDCC, \$10M to the Zoo, and \$5M to the Garden in the form of a Beneficiary Grant Agreement for capital projects for each entity; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the capital projects will vary based on the site, but the capital projects will improve the experience and public health of surrounding community members and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the FPDCC will institute general maintenance and upgrades to public facilities (including HVAC replacements), and build new comfort stations and rehabilitate up to 40 existing comfort stations throughout the forest preserve system; the Garden will facilitate roof replacement(s) at the Garden; and the Zoo will institute HVAC upgrades, roof repairs, and animal exhibit upgrades at the Zoo; and/or, in the case of each of the FPDCC, Garden and Zoo, such other projects as approved by the County through the County’s Bureau of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the Garden and the Zoo are not governmental entities; the property and buildings that host their programming are assets of the FPDCC, and due to the nature of these sites offering green space to the public as well as the community programming offered by these entities (governmental or otherwise), the rehabilitation of these sites falls within the scope of traditional government services and the County’s home rule powers; and

WHEREAS, the capital projects identified will be completed by year end 2026 and the completion of such projects will be monitored by the County through the Bureau of Finance and the FPDCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that President, Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the FPDCC to accept as a sub-recipient the proposed \$10M grant designated for the FPDCC and to enter the three (3) Beneficiary Agreements described below, subject to approval of the same by the Cook County Board of Commissioners:

1. Enter into a Beneficiary Agreement with the **Zoo and the County** under which the County will grant \$10M to the Zoo to fund HVAC, roof, and animal exhibit upgrades, and/or such other project(s) at the Zoo as approved by the County through the Bureau of Finance and FPDCC. The FPDCC will monitor the use of the grant award by the Zoo and report on the completion of the identified capital projects in accordance with the Beneficiary Agreement.
2. Enter into a Beneficiary Agreement with the **Garden and the County** under which the County will grant \$5M to the Garden to facilitate roof replacement(s), and/or such other project(s) at the Garden as approved by the County through the Bureau of Finance and FPDCC. The FPDCC will monitor the use of the grant award by the Garden and report on the completion of the identified capital projects in accordance with the Beneficiary Agreement.
3. Enter into a Beneficiary Agreement with **the County** under which the County will grant \$10M to FPDCC to institute general maintenance and upgrades to public facilities (including HVAC replacements), build new comfort stations and rehabilitate up to 40 existing comfort stations, and/or such other project(s) as approved by the County through the Bureau of Finance. The Bureau of Finance will monitor the use of the grant award by the FPDCC and report on the completion of the identified capital projects in accordance with the Beneficiary Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the capital projects included in the above-referenced Beneficiary Agreements shall be completed by year-end 2026.



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 23-2768 **Version:** 1 **Name:** ARPA Forest Preserve Brownfield Program
Type: Intergovernmental Agreement **Status:** Approved
File created: 4/28/2023 **In control:** Board of Commissioners
On agenda: 6/29/2023 **Final action:** 6/29/2023
Title: PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability

Other Part(ies): Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Request: Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County ("FPDCC")

Goods or Services: The Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability will provide American Rescue Plan Act Brownfield Program services to support structure demolition, environmental assessment, and environmental remediation within the Forest Preserves to increase access to healthy outdoor recreation and nature and enhance energy savings.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Date of execution through - 12/31/2026

Fiscal Impact: FY23 - \$100,000.00; FY24 - \$600,000.00; FY25 - \$600,000.00; FY26 - \$200,000.00

Accounts: 11286.1161.60977.520830.00000.00000

Summary: Authorization for the County of Cook on behalf of the Department of Environment and Sustainability to enter into and execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for the purpose of providing Brownfield Program demolition, environmental assessment, and environmental remediation services. The Brownfield Program is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Brownfields are underutilized and/or vacant sites that have real or perceived environmental issues that deter their redevelopment. The CCDES Brownfield Program assesses and remediates sites in suburban Cook County to promote economic growth and investment through redevelopment. Brownfield sites can also be remediated and returned to other productive uses such as open green space, parks, and flood/stormwater retention. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) is a partner in the program to remediate sites and demolish structures in areas they acquire to create additional greenspace.

Sponsors:

Indexes: DEBORAH STONE, Director, Department of Environment and Sustainability

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/29/2023	1	Board of Commissioners	approve	Pass

PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Department: Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability

Other Part(ies): Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Request: Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (“FPDCC”)

Goods or Services: The Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability will provide American Rescue Plan Act Brownfield Program services to support structure demolition, environmental assessment, and environmental remediation within the Forest Preserves to increase access to healthy outdoor recreation and nature and enhance energy savings.

Agreement Number(s): N/A

Agreement Period: Date of execution through - 12/31/2026

Fiscal Impact: FY23 - \$100,000.00; FY24 - \$600,000.00; FY25 - \$600,000.00; FY26 - \$200,000.00

Accounts: 11286.1161.60977.520830.00000.00000

Summary: Authorization for the County of Cook on behalf of the Department of Environment and Sustainability to enter into and execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for the purpose of providing Brownfield Program demolition, environmental assessment, and environmental remediation services. The Brownfield Program is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Brownfields are underutilized and/or vacant sites that have real or perceived environmental issues that deter their redevelopment. The CCDES Brownfield Program assesses and remediates sites in suburban Cook County to promote economic growth and investment through redevelopment. Brownfield sites can also be remediated and returned to other productive uses such as open green space, parks, and flood/stormwater retention. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) is a partner in the program to remediate sites and demolish structures in areas they acquire to create additional greenspace.